Government Sets Date for Closed Meeting Investigators and Adoption of Policies under the Municipal Act

Issue:

The Province has set January 1st, 2008 as the date on which Municipal Act requirements for closed meeting investigators and adoption of policies will come into force.

Background:

The Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006, which came into force on January 1st, 2007, left sections regarding the appointment and powers of closed meeting investigators and adoption of policies unproclaimed to give municipalities an opportunity to develop policies and consider options for the appointment of investigators.

On May 22nd, 2007, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing wrote to all Heads of Council to advise that the government has set the date of January 1st, 2008 for proclamation of these sections of the Act.

Municipalities will have to have policies developed and investigators appointed by the date of proclamation. AMO's Local Authority Services (LAS) issued a survey to members on April 30th, 2007 to explore interest in the establishment by LAS of a shared investigative resource which would fulfill the requirements of the Act. Members are asked to respond by May 28th, 2007. If member interest warrants, LAS will begin to develop a proposal for establishment of an investigative team to be available to investigate members' closed meeting complaints.

Action: Please respond to the LAS survey by May 28th, 2007.

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca.